

PATENT APPLICATION

**METHOD, SYSTEM, AND SOFTWARE FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING
USING SHEEP AND SHEPARD ARTIFACTS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method, system, and software are disclosed for improving the quality of a
signal. A signal is converted to a digital representation and then segregated into
separate data sets based on one or more properties of the data sets. Data sets exhibiting
relatively more information associated with a selected property are designated as
shepherd artifacts, and data sets exhibiting relatively less information associated with
10 a selected property are designated as sheep artifacts. A representative shepherd artifact
is then used to guide a representative sheep artifact, resulting in a guided artifact with
enhanced signal properties. This process may be repeated for other categories of signal
properties. The resulting guided artifacts may then be combined to form a processed
signal with one or more enhanced properties having increased quality. The present
15 invention finds particular application in photography and digital film processing,
whereby the illustrated method may be used to improve image quality.